took their stand next to us. In the name of their party they urged the marchers not to be lulled by empty promises but to carry out their struggle for world revolution. Regiment after regiment marched past the palace. Some soldiers left the ranks, climbed the wide stairs, and entered the building. Gradually Katherine Hall was filled with armed men.

Our All-Russian Executive Committee and that of the Peasants met in a joint session that lasted until long after midnight. Violence and looting in the capital were reported. The chairman of the Workers' Section of the Petrograd Soviet read the resolution of the Section demanding that the All-Russian Executive Committee take over power. Provincial delegates accused the Petrograd workers and soldiers of trying to usurp power. "Petrograd isn't all Russia!" they screamed.

They were followed by angry representatives of the peasants: "You, rioters, Anarchists, traitors! The villages will put an end to your lawlessness!"

The Communists lost their aplomb. Trotsky denied that his party was trying to intimidate the Executive Committee. "What happened today," he explained, "was a peaceful demonstration of citizens." He also denied the reports of violence by Bolshevik-led crowds, arguing that all incidents were the work of the Cadets and *provocateurs.* Tseretelli announced that the presiding board of the All-Russian Executive Committee proposed to hold the plenary session of the Committee in Moscow, where it could work free from mob pressure.

I was not in the hall when he introduced this proposal, but friends told me later that its effect was as if a bomb had exploded under the cupola. If the All-Russian Executive Committee could not meet in Petrograd, neither could the government remain there nor could the Constituent Assembly convene in that city. Tseretelli's suggestion therefore amounted to transferring the political capital to Moscow. It was easy to visualize the implications of this measure: The Communists would then take over Petrograd with all its arsenals and military installations, including the Baltic fleet and munitions factories.

The peasant delegates applauded Tseretelli's proposal. Martov and his followers violently opposed it. No vote was taken, and the session adjourned before dawn.

THE SIEGE OF THE TAURIDE PALACE

I remained in the palace. With two members of the Soldiers' Section, I was now in charge of the defense of the building. We could keep a